

# Florida Deepwater Horizon Response and Recovery Workgroup #5: Long-term Economic Recovery

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**Task:** To identify regional long-term economic recovery opportunities by:

- Exploring ways to diversify the region's economy as a way to alleviate vulnerability to economic shocks.
- Evaluating the region's comparative economic advantages, aside from tourism and recreation, that may offer opportunities for further development and establish expectations as to the magnitude of any possible development initiatives compared to the regional economy in total.

## **Work Plan**

### **I. Week 1 (July 26-30)**

- a. Identify County Demographic Data, including:
  - Population
  - Education level
  - Wage & Income
  - Unemployment
  - Broadband Availability
  - Housing
  - Local Sales Tax
  - Industry Trends, including major industries
  - Employment Trends
- b. Contact key economic development groups to obtain information and strategies for long-term economic recovery, including Enterprise Florida, Florida's Great Northwest, Opportunity Florida, Workforce Florida, local chambers, and others.
- c. Identify and research long-term economic recovery options that are being identified by other Deepwater Horizon working groups.

### ***Summary of Week 1 Activities:***

- Gathered and charted county demographic data from the Office of Economic & Demographic Research and Enterprise Florida, Inc.
- Began coordination of conference calls and upcoming round table meetings.
- Met with Enterprise Florida, Inc. and Workforce Florida, Inc. to discuss regional economic advantages and recovery.
- Made contact or called the following entities to discuss regional economic recovery and the work plan, and to gather useful resources: Florida's Great Northwest, Opportunity Florida, Pensacola Chamber of Commerce, Gulf Chamber

of Commerce, Okaloosa Chamber of Commerce, Walton Chamber of Commerce, Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce, Navarre Chamber of Commerce, Perdido Key Chamber of Commerce, Bay Chamber of Commerce, and the West Florida Regional Planning Council.

- Provided a document, *Workforce Development In Northwest Florida*, by Florida's Great Northwest to the workgroup.
- A copy of the documents may be found on the [workgroup's resource page](#).

## **II. Week 2 (Aug 2-Aug 6)**

- a. Identify historical long-term effects of oil spills on industries. Research and identify past oil spill disasters and their effects on industries. Determine the length and magnitude of the disaster on industries and the economy. Consider what economic recovery options had the most success, if any.
- b. Determine regional economic advantages and weaknesses. Consider advantages and weaknesses based on common site selection factors. Contact economic development groups, planning councils, chambers and local governments, and other groups as necessary to identify advantages and weaknesses from economic reports, stakeholders and other parties.
- c. Identify anchor businesses, and businesses that have received recent incentive funding.
- d. Identify strengths of the university and community college system that may promote long-term economic recovery.
- e. Begin drafting report based on preliminary data.
- f. Conduct a conference call with workgroup to discuss demographic data and other information learned, begin discussion on economic opportunities, and make plans for roundtable discussions in the panhandle.

### ***Summary of Week 2 Activities:***

- Scheduled roundtable meetings for August 13-14, 2010 in Panama City, Destin, and Pensacola, and identified contacts and stakeholders for these meetings. Please see Scheduled Events on the [House's Deepwater Horizon Response and Recovery Web site](#) and the [workgroup's resource page](#) for details and background information on these meetings.
- Initiated research on historical long-term effects of oil spill disasters on industries. Contacted the Florida Board of Governors to assist with research on two issues: 1) identifying historical long-term effects of oil spills on industries; and 2) identifying the strengths of the universities and community colleges in the region that may promote long-term economic recovery.
- Began researched ideas that have been discussed or mentioned that may help with long-term economic recovery.
- Followed-up with Enterprise Florida, Inc., in regards to the workgroup's for: 1) companies that have received incentive funding over the last 5 years in the affected counties, and 2) companies that chose not to locate in those counties and possible reasons for that decision.

- Met with Enterprise Florida, Inc., on defense related activities in the region to better understand possible long-term economic opportunities.
- Held conference call with members to discuss work plan, demographics, upcoming meetings, and economic recovery.
- Initiated research on regional economic advantages & weaknesses. Identified top site selection factors for 2009.
- Contacted local chambers, economic development organizations, and others, including: Bay County Economic Development Alliance, Gulf County Economic Development Council, the Economic Development Council of Okaloosa County, TEAM Santa Rosa Economic Development Council, Walton County Economic Development Council, Panama City Beach Chamber of Commerce, Destin Area Chamber of Commerce, and the University of West Florida Haas Center.

### **III. Week 3 (August 9-13)**

- a. Conduct roundtable meetings in the panhandle to lay out possible long-term economic opportunities for the region that can be accomplished without state resources or that can be accomplished through minimal state resources with suggested offsetting savings.
- b. Identify federal, state and local opportunities. Consider whether each opportunity will have a short or long-term impact, the financial costs associated with the opportunity, and the potential impact on the total economy. Propose offsetting savings for opportunities which impact state resources.
- c. Identify whether current state or local programs could be utilized or reprioritized for economic recovery.
- d. Continue regional economic advantages & weaknesses. Consider advantages and weaknesses based on common site selection factors. Contact economic development groups, planning councils, chambers and local governments, and other groups as necessary to identify advantages and weaknesses from economic reports, stakeholders and other parties.

#### ***Summary of Week 3 Activities:***

- Cancelled roundtable meetings in order to coordinate with federal meetings scheduled for the weeks of August 16 and August 23 to be conducted by the Economic Solutions Team within the National Incident Command. Contacted the six counties hosting these meeting to gather relevant information and schedules – including Bay, Santa Rosa, Walton, Okaloosa, Escambia, and Gulf counties.
- Followed up on information and phone calls with Enterprise Florida, Inc, and other local chambers and economic development councils.
- Met with a representative from the Florida Board of Governors on two issues: 1) identifying historical long-term effects of oil spills on industries; and 2) identifying the strengths of the universities and community colleges in the region that may promote long-term economic recovery.
- Continued research on economic advantages and weaknesses.
- Continued research on ideas that have been discussed or mentioned that may help with long-term economic recovery.

**IV. Week 4 (August 16-20)**

- a. Attend federal economic recovery meetings in Escambia, Santa Rosa, Bay, and Gulf counties.
- b. Compile and analyze all the information obtained to date.
- c. Survey state agencies regarding current programs.

***Summary of Week 4 Activities:***

- Staff traveled and attended three day economic recovery workshops held by federal officials and the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) in Escambia, Santa Rosa, Gulf, and Bay counties. Meeting summaries and presentations were made available to the members of the workgroup and may be found on the [workgroup's resource page](#).
- Surveyed state agencies to determine whether current programs could provide greater flexibility or use to the area impacted by the oil spill to address long-term recovery issues.

**V. Week 5 (August 23-27)**

- a. Attend federal economic recovery meetings in Walton and Okaloosa counties.
- b. Hold conference call with members to discuss federal meetings, agency surveys and final report.
- c. Compile and analyze all the information obtained to date.
- d. Consider any legislation that may be necessary to implement and develop any of the opportunities.
- e. Hold conference call with local economic development organizations to discuss local recommendations.
- f. Finish first draft.

***Summary of Week 5 Activities:***

- Staff participated in three day economic recovery workshops held by federal officials and the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) in Okaloosa and Walton counties. Meeting summaries and presentations were made available to the members of the workgroup and may be found on the [workgroup's resource page](#).
- Held conference call with workgroup members to discuss information and issues from the federal meetings, agency surveys and final report.
- Held conference call with local economic development organizations and Florida's Great Northwest to discuss local economic development ideas and recommendations for diversification.
- Drafted final report.

**VI. Week 6 (August 30-31) \*CURRENT WEEK\***

- a. Finalize and submit report to the Speaker.

**VII. Final Report Due August 31**